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SEP 8 1965

CPYRGHT

C.I.A. News Aide's Title Shorter and Anonymous

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 7 —

Mostly out of a sense of the fitness of things, the Central Intelligence Agency has abolished the title, though not the functions, of its Assistant to the Director for Public Affairs.

"We have no public affairs," one C.I.A. official explained.

However, the Government's principal intelligence gathering organ finds itself in the news too frequently to be able to dispense with a regular contact with the news media.

Until two years ago, this contact was made through an officer whose title was Assistant to the Director. Then the title was lengthened to Assistant to the Director for Public Affairs. Now the post, held by John Mellan, has been restored to its previous anonymity.